

tittle in return for their 15,000Z., except the discontent of the taxpayer at so bad a bargain, while Pope Urban never succeeded in stirring up his German crusade against the French schismatics. By the irony of chance, this marriage was the means of bringing about another schism even more formidable to the Papacy than that of Avignon. The Bohemians who passed to and fro between Prague and London after the alliance of the two Courts, carried to their home manuscripts of Wycliffe's theological works, and diffused there the spirit of the reformer. In the University of Prague and the villages of Bohemia this seed soon ripened into harvest. The Hussite movement was Wycliffism pure and simple. A generation later, persecution and racial animosity converted it into "Wycliffism armed and triumphant, a strange spectacle for the fifteenth century. At the hands of Ziska the Catholic Church had a foretaste of the great revolt. It is these events, so little foreseen by the statesmen who planned the match, which make Anne's coming to England worthy of notice.¹

The years '82 and '83 are marked by the last episode of the French war, the revolt of Flanders. As far as England is concerned, the affair shows how halting and half-hearted our war-policy had become, how unfit were the resources of the country to carry on the struggle ; it also throws an interesting light on the degrees of influence exerted on foreign and military questions by the various parties within the State.

The fourteenth century had been a comparatively peaceful and a very prosperous period in the history of the Low Countries. On their rich and well-watered soil a thriving agricultural population multiplied in the hamlets that stood around the chateaux of the nobility, while the inhabitants of the great cities vied with those of Italy in trade, in the arts of manufacture, and in the desire for independence and self-government. But while in Italy the burghers had been able to gratify all these aspirations, while the towns of the Lombard League had driven the Emperor beyond the Alps

¹ *Rot.*, ParZ., iii. 113-4 ; *Froiss.*, ii, chap. 148 ; *Wals.*, ii. 46 ; *Higden*, ix. 12 ; *Diet.*, of *Nat. Biog.*, sub Anne of Bohemia and Richard II.